

3 According to the invention a method and system for selectively  
4 controlling the operation of a device intended by a person is  
5 provided which uses some kind of personal authentication token,  
6 e.g., a JAVACard connected to said device in order to control a  
7 particular type of use or the duration of use of the device, and  
8 - if desired - in order to interrupt the operation of the device  
9 or to delimit the operation when some kind of reason can be  
10 evaluated from some operation type specific or some user-related  
11 data stored in said card which might justify said decision.

12 According to a preferred aspect of the present invention said  
13 token or, generally spoken, an authentication means is  
14 advantageously a Smartcard and in particular a Java Card, or any  
15 other multi function Smartcard with the capability of downloading  
16 and executing software programs on the card, on which personal  
17 authentication data as well as some kind of account data are  
18 stored. Said account can be a time account in which the duration  
19 of the personal use and/or operation of the device is maintained  
20 and regularly compared to some predetermined time limits admitted  
21 to the user. A large variety of further criteria storables on the  
22 card emerge dependent of the type of the device. (Fig. 1)